

The word "HALIFAX" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, positioned in the upper right corner of the slide. The background features a dark blue geometric shape in the top right and a lighter blue shape in the bottom right, meeting at a diagonal line.

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Accessibility Framework Development

Progress Report

Prepared by: Office of Diversity & Inclusion

June 25, 2018

What we are presenting today

1. Update on the Accessibility Consultations
2. Next steps

The Consultation Process

- Facilitated sessions were held at six locations during February & March 2018
 - Sackville Sports Stadium
 - Alderney Gate Library
 - Central Public Library
 - Tantallon Public Library
 - Gordon Snow Community Centre
 - Captain Willian Spry Centre
- Sessions were conducted in the afternoon/evening
- 130 participants



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Inclusive Process

All facilities had to have:

- An accessible, ground level or ramp, entrance with power operated doors
- Barrier free access to the consultation room
- A large open room able to accommodate many accessibility aids
- An accessible washroom near the room the consultations were to be in
- Accessible parking
- Proximity to Halifax Transit stops



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Inclusive Process

All sessions included:

- Communications in large print and braille
- Sign language interpretation
- Live captioning
- Sighted guides
- HRM staff to support participants in their participation in the session
- An external facilitator skilled in working with diverse communities



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The Findings

- Three main themes emerged for consideration during the consultation process:
 - TRANSPORTATION
 - RECREATION
 - FACILITIES

Transportation

- Improve accessible transportation to increase its usage e.g. booking regulations, timing and number of Access-a-Busses.
- Treat sidewalks like roads e.g. year-round obstruction clearing, consistent curb cuts, barrier free access from parking to sidewalk.



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Recreation

- Ensure everyone can access nature, parks, playgrounds and facilities independently.
- Build on strength by expanding recreation programming and its reach e.g. build upon current recreation offerings, subsidies for persons with disabilities, and provide trained staff.
- Promote accessible programs and facilities to create awareness.
- Improve existing recreation facilities to meet minimum building code standards.



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Facilities

- Enforce and ensure buildings exceed minimum standards e.g. quality and condition of accessible washrooms, and enforcement of building codes.
- Develop an auditing, tracking and reporting system for repairs. There were examples of out of service accessible features that had not been repaired, such as an accessible shower, wet wheelchairs, and power operated doors.



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Next Steps

1. Additional consultations with service providers, diversity groups, rehab patients.
2. Consultation findings will be rolled out to Accessibility Advisory Committee for feedback.
3. The Diversity and Inclusion team will develop the corporate Accessibility Framework - projected completion Q4.
4. The Diversity and Inclusion team will continue to work with the Province of Nova Scotia regarding the Provincial Accessibility Act and future regulations respecting their impact on HRM.



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QUESTIONS?



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